

ABSTRACT

Materials and methods for repairing or replacing an intervertebral disc or disc nucleus using natural biological tissue. The tissue may be used alone without an additional core material, or it may be used to encapsulate an elastomeric or hydrogel core. When used alone the tissue may be rolled, folded, braided, or layered to provide a solid plug of natural biological material. When used to encapsulate an elastomeric or hydrogel core the tissue acts as a constraining jacket to support the core. The natural tissue implants may further include a drawstring to assist in folding the implant when the device is implanted in an intervertebral disc space. Multiple units of the natural tissue implants may be used together.